SOUTH VIET NAM In Struggle

6th Year – November 27, 1972

No 175

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CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION

6 FEB 13 1973
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Detainees in US-Saigon jails faced with extermination

A special communiqué of the Committee for Denunciation of the US Imperialists' and their South Viet Nam Agents' War Crimes dated October 18, 1972 has exposed to home and world public a secret plan of the Saigon administration in case of a compulsory POW's exchange: "appropriate and very easy measures" are envisaged vis-à-vis military and civilian detainees whom Saigon thugs are unable to convert ideologically or to compel to follow them.

Everyone knows what such "appropriate and very easy measures" are: isolated or collective assassinations, shooting or massive imprisonment, to eliminate political detainees impossible to win over to Thieu's high treason and to Yankee neo-colonialism.

No doubt is any longer possible since Nguyen Van Thieu made it a point to supply details in his October 24, 1972 speech over Radio-Saigon *— the most truculent speech ever heard from the mouth of a "Head of State." The Saigon dictator crudely suggested the assassination and extermination of all "Viet Cong," that is, of all patriots hostile to his policy of war and subservience to US imperialism, communists or non-communists.*

"The existence of this band of vagabonds, thieves, deserters and other undesirable people", he declared, "does not count for much." He tried to be less blunt when dealing with political personalities who might eventually be given important posts in a national concord government: "Maybe nobody would kill them in free South Viet Nam, but they will surely be killed by the Communists."

The hint at a list of 10,000 *people to be made away with was quite transparent. The CIA and the Thieu police — its offspring — had given a first warning, and now Thieu's speech served a clearer one.*

If it may be difficult to massacre people in their home or in the streets, the liquidation of detainees in public or secret jails of the Saigon regime is much easier.

On October 11 *last, the Americans and Thieu opened fire on detainees in Cay Dua prison, Phu Quoc Island. This move, which heralded more important liquidations, was to be justified by the myth of a mutiny during a firewood-collecting expedition. There is no shortage of pretexts. At the Saint Quentin jail, in the USA, when the need arose to dispose of one of the Soledad brothers, an attempted escape was invented. The massive imprisonment of* 6,000 *detainees at the "Phu Loi "re-education centre" in* 1958 *was first simply denied. Then the Saigon administration circulated the story of a political prisoners' plot to defame the regime. The* 1,000 *dead could not give any denial, whereas the* 5,000 *survivors, quickly scattered in faraway jails, were also silenced. It is true that this occurred under Ngo Dinh Diem's "First Republic," but no one is unaware that Thieu's "Second Republic" is but a Diem regime without Diem.*

An extermination threat, followed by an initial fulfilment, is looming over South Viet Nam's jail population. This was strongly denounced by a communiqué of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers issued in Brussels on October 25, 1972:

"Hundreds of thousands of Vietnamese are jailed in South Viet Nam, and a number of them are at present threatened with extermination.

"While discussions apparently for window-dressing are being dragged out between US authorities and their representative — Thieu — whose maintenance in office depends solely upon them, tortures and assassinations are systematically committed in the 1,000 *jails and penitentiaries of South Viet Nam. The atrocious condition of prisoners held in most cases without any trial, is becoming more and more a matter of concern.*

"The recent Phu Quoc massacre where one hundred women prisoners were cut down, and the information which the survivors sent out at great pains — in spite of the absolute secrecy surrounding it — has mentioned the various methods used to destroy prisoners.

"It is feared — and there is every indication of it — that the US administration and Thieu are taking advantage of the days when the ending of the war is being discussed, to physically liquidate cadres that may play a role after the cease-fire."

NUMEROUS texts of positive international law, while comfirming the rules of humanity long sanctioned by public law among civilized nations, prohibit the arbitrary arrest and ill-treatment of detainees and condemn tortures and physical elimination of war prisoners as international crime.

Thus the December 10, 1948 *Universal Declaration of Rights laid down a principle according to which every individual enjoys the right to life, freedom and personal security* (Art.3), *nobody shall be arbitrarily arrested, detained or exiled* (Art.9), *nobody shall be subjected to tortures and to cruel, inhuman, or degrading penalties or treatments* (Art.5), *everybody shall have an equal right to have equitable and public hearing of his case by an independent and impartial tribunal which will take decisions either on his rights and obligations, or on the merits of any accusation in penal matters directed against him* (Art. 10).

The December 16, 1968 *international pact on civil and political rights specifies that "any person deprived of his freedom shall be treated humanely and with respect for human dignity"* (Art.10).

All the above-mentioned clauses can be found again in the internal legislation of the USA and even in the 1967 *constitution of the Saigon regime which Thieu has violated all the time with the off-handedness of an old trooper.*

The Saigon mini-tyrant's responsibility is obvious, that of the US administration is also beyond any doubt, since the USA is bound, beside general texts, by the 1954 *Geneva Agreements on Viet Nam which guaranteed to the Vietnamese people democratic freedoms and by the August* 12, 1949 *Geneva Conventions on the protection of war prisoners and victims.*

According to the Statutes of the Nuremberg International Military Tribunal, the assassination or ill-treatment of POW's constitutes a war crime in its strict sense, while the assassination, extermination, reduction to serfdom, deportation and any other inhuman act committed against the civilian population before or during the war are punished as crimes against mankind.

(Continued on page 5)

US extermination war in the very suburb of Saigon

US-THIEU INHUMAN TREATMENT OF POLITICAL PRISONERS DENOUNCED BY US QUAKERS

THE *American Friends Service Committee* Oct. 10 issued a statement expressing its deep concern over the massive arrest of civilians by the US-Thieu clique and the fate of the detained political prisoners in South Viet Nam who are subject to daily tortures and inhuman treatment.

After denouncing the US-Thieu's refusal to let representatives of that organization visit penitentiaries and concentration camps in South Viet Nam, the statement said:

"A woman prisoner was subject to continual seizures. After interrogation and beating to the point of unconsciousness, she complained of vaginal bleeding and an examination was performed.

In the prison ward she had as many as ten seizures a night. Further examination showed swelling on her head which she said resulted from the police banging her head against a wall. An X-ray confirms a skull fracture with resulting paralysis to the right side of her body.

A 17-year-old boy, near death, had been unable to urinate for four days and was in extreme pain. After treatment by a Quaker doctor, we were informed that the prisoner had been tortured by electric charges to his genital organs.

A young girl had seizures, stared into space and exhibited symptoms of loss of memory. She said she had been forced to drink a lime solution many times while being interrogated.

Another young girl told us she had been forced to drink a lime-filled whitewash solution after which guards had jumped on her bloated stomach. She said she had also been beaten with a heavy club. She complained of pain in the chest and stomach and was observed having seizures.

Two women were chained together in the prison ward. One, 45, had chest pains and said she had been subjected to electric torture. She also had seizures so violent that they caused the hospital bed to move several feet. The other woman who was older, said she had been beaten with a club on chest, neck and face.

The Quaker doctor examined her and found her face severely swollen, her chest and neck bruised and a chest X-ray showed cracked ribs. She also said she had been forced to drink a lime solution."

The statement continued:

"Because of the continuing loss of life and liberty in South Viet Nam, we urge that the USA sign the cease-fire agreement immediately. We believe that President Thieu should no longer delay an agreement. We are aware of and have documentation on the fact that Thieu's police, his brutal interrogators and his prison system received not only US financial support, but advice and consultation from US advisors. Therefore, the US has an obligation to help bring this situation to an end by opening the way to international inspection as called for in the agreements. The only way President Thieu can continue these measures indefinitely is with US support. That support must be withdrawn in the interests of peace and humanity. Thieu must not any longer block efforts to end the bloodshed, and restores some degree of normal order in (South) Viet Nam.

We urge US intercession on behalf of South Vietnamese civilian prisoners including those being currently caught in Thieu's dragnet."

Prison massacres, a current US-Thieu atrocity

PATRIOTS arbitrarily held in over 1,000 prisons of the US-Thieu regime across South Viet Nam are being exterminated. Distress calls have been sent out from Con Dao, Phu Quoc, Tan Hiep, Chi Hoa and Thua Phu jails notorious for their "tiger cages" and "cow-sheds". They come from patriots, from those who have dared take up arms against the enemy, or who are against US aggression in one form or another. The victims of these horrors include nationalist-minded members of the Saigon army and administration who oppose the US-Thieu dictatorial rule and favour peace, independence and neutrality. It is no exaggeration to say that there is hardly a South Viet Nam family without some of its members in prison. Many have been apprehended recently. Innumerable others have been in custody for years now.

Every genuine Vietnamese feels greatly concerned about these patriots and these peace advocates on account of notorious US-Thieu prison regime. The tortures used by prison warders are infinite in their variety: burning the prisoner's abdomen, driving pins into the tips of his fingers, toes or genitals, exposing him to the broiling sun, drawing out his blood until complete exhaustion, introducing eels or poisonous worms into women internees' privy parts, spraying of a kind of chemical solution on sexual organs which causes swelling or ulcers... Physical and moral torture is resorted to to break the prisoner's will. With this aim in view, jailers ceaselessly beat and torture inmates brutally enough to inflict intolerable but not lethal pain. The latter are also starved and given little water to drink and crowded into narrow rooms. They are condemned to a slow death or at least life incapacity once they get out of prison. The exact number of patriots killed by the US-Thieu rule is still unknown. But one thing is certain: the ineffectiveness of prison violence has given rise to an escalation in atrocities.

Guns and bayonets have been used without stint. In March 1969, 800 inmates of the Con Dao Island jail were fired at. In June of the same year, 100 others were slain at Tay Ninh prison. Two months later, 200 women were killed or injured at Thu Duc jail. In May 1970, 156 people were murdered or wounded at Cay Dua jail (Phu Quoc island). In October of the same (year, 25 were disposed of at Con Dao jail. Early 1972, 180 new-type bullets were let off at inmates of the same jail, seriously wounding over 200 of them. On May 6, 1972 prisoners at Cay Dua (Phu Quoc) were fired upon and the number of dead or wounded ran to the hundred. On October 11, 1972, a similar carnage occurred on Phu Quoc island, taking a toll of dozens of prisoners. These are cases which have been brought to light. Countless others still remain in the dark. The US-Thieu clique is trying to liquidate as many prisoners as possible, if not all because, they are believed to be a peril in the future if they survive and regain freedom. Aware of its imminent doom, it is determined to strike out in all directions and do all the damage it can in its throes. As a result, the lives of prisoners of war and detained patriots and opposition elements are hanging by a thread.

The most urgent task now is to rescue them from the risk of death. In South Viet Nam cities and towns, action has been staged for long to denounce the US-Thieu penitentiary regime and to protect the political prisoners. Committees of Action for a Better Prison Regime and various student and women's organizations have done a good job in revealing those crimes. People from all walks of life are stepping up their effort to defend the patriots under illegal detention and to press for their immediate release, repeal of all fascist laws, dismantling of all strategic hamlets, detention centres and refugees' camps and cancellation of all cœrcive regulations, measures and organizations directed against the people. Recently, the General Union of Saigon Students has made public the first list prepared by itself of nearly 400 detainees including 180 students and pupils from Da Lat and 149 others from Saigon, Can Tho, Hue, Da Nang and An Giang. The US-Thieu regime must be responsible for their fate. Many families having relatives in jail are urging the Saigon administration to tell them their whereabouts and let them visit their people.

The US-Thieu prison massacres have touched off a wave of world-wide protest. Many organizations and prominent figures in the world have come out against them and demanded their termination.

We earnestly hope that peace- and justice-loving people in the world will keep up their struggle and take appropriate measures to help stop the US-Thieu bloody hands and secure freedom for the political detainees and prisoners of war.

in the cities

— In response to the two Statements of the DRVN Government and the RSVN PRG, hundreds of thousands of people of Thua Thien, My Tho, Gia Dinh, Long An, An Giang, Vinh Long, Can Tho and other provinces have impelled their action against impress, terror and persecution, looting, and Thieu's flag-display campaign and for his resignation, an end to the war, restoration of peace and national concord.

— In their resistance to Thieu's flag-display drive, people have tarred three-stripe flags painted by Thieu's agents or torn up such flags and Thieu's portraits. They have also distributed leaflets calling on the Saigon army officers and men to act upon the 10-point policy of the PRG. Not a few Saigon armymen keep flags of the PRG ready in their packs.

— To solve their serious troop shortage, the Thieu regime has turned to the Long Thanh orphanage for recruits. Meeting with strong opposition, Thieu's agents beat up the institution's head and threw him into Chi Hoa prison.

On October 20, they rushed into this prison and forced the Long Thanh orphans detained there to join the Saigon army. The orphanage's head and his charges put up a stiff resistance. Thieu's agents manhandled him and seriously wounded more than 20 of the boys, to widespread public indignation in South Viet Nam.

— Nine organizations of Saigon private schools — Council of Private Schools, General Education Board of the Catholic Church, General Union of Catholic teachers, Union of Private Schools, General Board of Culture and Education of Hoa Hao Buddhist Youths, Students and Pupils, General Cao Daist Education Board, Committee of Culture and Education of the Evangelical Church..., have sent a petition to the Thieu regime, in protesting against its taxes on private schools and its treatment of them as liable to income-tax.

These organizations demanded immediate cancellation of this decision and exemption of all taxes for education establishments so that private schools can freely exercise their educational and missionary duties in accordance with their specific objectives.

— Flu is rampant in various refugees' camps in Da Nang where are assembled people whose houses and orchards have been ravaged by US-Saigon bombs and shells. The epidemic is fast spreading because of poor accommodation and sanitary facilities and undernourishment. So far it has affected 40% of the inmates and many children under 10 years of age have died at the Hoa My camp. No measures have been taken by the Thieu regime against the disease. Worse still, its agents continue stealing relief goods sent in from various quarters.

The angry inmates are pressing for preventive and curative measures and for their return to their native villages.

— On the night of November 2, 1972, Saigon-paid civil guards at an outpost in Chau Thanh district,

THE THIEU REGIME

unjust, dictatorial, servile, anti-national and unprogressive

Editor's note. — *The recent issue of the magazine* South Viet Nam Youth Confronting the War *" published by the " Movement of Catholics for Peace " has carried several letters written by college students and school pupils from Chi Hoa jail.*

The following is a letter by **Nguyen Duy Thong**, 26, *a barrister :*

I was born and grew in the horrors of successive French and US aggression against our country. When the anti-French resistance ended I was only a child. My parents were then " doing the work of grown-ups " which means — I later realized — taking part in the anti-French patriotic struggle. During one of her assignments, my mother was unfortunately caught by the French. So I lost her, but had no idea of the torture inflicted on her by the enemy, although I vaguely understood that such tortures were unavoidable. It was only later that I had a clearer notion of the meaning of my parents' fight.

I remember seeing resistance fighters turn up in great numbers in the still of night and invite the population to a meeting. They were no other than sons of my uncle's neighbours. They looked very gentle and lovable. What a difference from a *Legionnaire* whose appearance always frightened me ! I once saw one such soldier riding a horse and holding a rope tied to the hands of a young Vietnamese clad in black pyjamas. He whipped on his mount who was dragging the young man whose mouth was bleeding profusely. I also recalled another young man named Mai : he lived just behind my uncle's house and was captured by traitors. He was ordered to lie down in front of that house, and *nuoc mam* (fish sauce) was poured into his nose until he died.

Those images remained engraved in my memory and made me realize that the Viet Minh was an organization leading the Vietnamese people's resistance against the French, then the American aggressors. I thus came to trust and admire the " resissance fighters " and the Viet Minh front, after being a witness to its performances. My trust — a quite human feeling — was only the crystallization of inmate nationalism that was also shared by other people. In 1954, when Ngo Dinh Diem returned to Viet Nam, the two words " Viet Minh " were transformed into " Viet Cong. " The name was changed but the fight remained the same. In spite of US-Saigon propaganda, my sympathy for the Viet Minh, i.e. the present-day anti-US resistance forces, was intact.

In South Viet Nam, we were never taught lessons of history dealing with the heroic struggle of our nation. We did not know anything about the life of President Ho Chi Minh and the Dien Bien Phu victory. All this was banned by the Americans from the curriculum of South Vietnamese schools, including the University. We were all the more desirous of knowing such things and had to learn them secretly, in the teeth of many difficulties. After having acquired a vague knowledge of our nation's heroic history which increased our sympathy for the resistance members in the days of our childhood, we felt that our patriotism had been considerably strengthened into an iron mass which no adversity could break or destroy.

I am a native of Central Viet Nam. A few years ago, in summer 1966, a large-scale " sweep " was staged by US troops against my native village. South Vietnamese (Saigon) troops beheaded resistance members and displayed their heads along the main village lanes until they decomposed, to show the " victory of the Allied armies. " What I saw then was eventually confirmed, by one of my clients — a barmaid at a snack-bar catering for US troops, whose husband was a captain in the Saigon army. He was a ranger officer, with eyes always blood-shot, owing to the fact — she told me — that he often ate resistance members' livers and drank their blood. Once she showed me a human liver which was put aside by her husband, and added that the ranger captain also kept a " garland of victory " made of Viet Cong ears. US advisers used to pay 700 piastres for each piece, and this explained why, after each military operation, her husband brought back plenty of human ears.

Before knowing a lawyer, I attended the " National Administative School " and, after graduation, was assigned to Tra Vinh province where I worked under an experienced US adviser who was fluent in Vietnamese. Through contacts with him, I fully realized the sinister designs of the Americans and came to the conclusion that there was only one alternative for me — to squarely side with my people, take an active part in the anti-US fight for independence and freedom. It was of no use being a civil servant and living a short sheltered life, which only filled me with shame. I thus gave up my job and became an advocate, but I found my new profession equally unattractive, since it represented only a compromise with the rotten regime of this " Viet Nam republic " to squeeze the poor. The ideals of justice and humanity were killed by the South Vietnamese judiciary system. What was now offered to me was the prospect of a struggle to get rid of this unjust and dictatorial regime in Saigon — a servile, anti-national and unprogressive rule. I started with a few articles written for student magazines. Because of them, I was arrested and confined for more than five months in the celles of the General Police Headquarters. Then in 1969, I was drafted into the Army allegedly to be set free. I opposed the war and the wearing of uniforms. For fear of this opposition they released me after half a month in the army. In 1970, I organized an anti-US demonstration to denounce Lon Nol-Sirik Matak's US-instigated massacre of Vietnamese residents in Cambodia. This action was followed by others urging US-withdrawal from South Viet Nam and recognition of the South Vietnamese people's right to self-determination. We were harshly repressed : Once in a demonstration near the Minh Mang students' hotel, American MPs fired M.17 shots at us and I had a narrow escape. After Nguyen Van Thieu's rigged re-election, I was arrested and my detention lasted ten months. Saigon police came in great numbers — I counted 40 of them, all armed with pistols — surrounded us and pointed their pistols at us. They knocked us down, shoved us into a police van with folded eyes, then kept us in so many jails that I could not remember all their names. For months we were starved. Even in *Tet* days we were not given enough rice to eat, let alone the traditional meat and sweets ! Moreover, we were regularly flogged and tortured, even during the Tet festival.

We are not sorry for what we have done, even after ten months of detention. Our only regret is that at present we cannot do our bits in the common fight of our fellow-countrymen and youths against the US aggressors. We are also sorry that what we have done is too little and trivial, nothing comparable with the immense sacrifices made by our people and youth in the battle for Viet Nam's independence.

Events are taking a new turn in our country but our patriotism remains unalloyed. No matter under what circumstances, we always know who is our enemy. Fired by this deep hatred, we are determined to fight until final victory.

Lying in this jail, we can hear every night the noise made by B.52 bombings quite close to Saigon. We know that the US aggressors behave very brutally vis-à-vis our people, but this, far from discouraging us, only strengthens our resolve to carry on. Our effort will certainly be victorious ! The Vietnamese people will win !

" Tiger Cage, " *a sinister invention of the US-Thieu regime*

Ben Tre province, arbitrarily arrested 59-year-old fisherman Nguyen Van Tac. They drove a nail through his head until death came. Mr Tac had 3 of his sons and 3 sons-in-law in various Saigon services. His second son is sergeant Nguyen Ngoc Bo, his 8th son is a sailor stationed in My Tho and his 9th son is working in an institute in Saigon. Two of his sons-in-law are officers in the 7th Division's 10th Regiment and the 3rd is a captain in the Buddhist chaplains' office.

Fishermen who knew Mr Tac and have witnessed his cold-blooded murder, have denounced with indignation this US-Thieu crime against a family of Saigon armymen.

— On November 6, 180 railway workers at Chi Hoa depot (Saigon) staged a show-down strike for their October pay. Payment of their montly wages is always been delayed, making things more difficult for them in face of skyrocketing prices. They have decided to go on with their action until their claim is met. Their strike has received support from workers at other railway stations and related establishments and friendly trade unions.

— The Saigon regime has increased various market taxes from 80 to 100%. Apart from transport costs, traders who bring goods from the provinces to Saigon have to pay production, transit and market taxes in addition to other impositions along the road. Market stalls and seats are also dutiable. Recently a five-fold increase in taxes on transport cars squeezed another 3 billion piastres out of the people's pocket-books. Trading difficulties plus heavy and multiple taxes are a real scourge for small traders. Trading circles at 36 Saigon markets are waging a stop to such extortions particularly unwelcome in these difficult times.

Liberation regulars grow more destructive

IN the seven-month long offensives and uprisings of the armed forces and people of South Viet Nam, gains of strategic significance have been scored.

Militarily, they have by far surpassed the previous ones in terms of large adverse units destroyed, of PLAF capability of sustained fighting and high efficiency, of destruction of enemy manpower combined with seizure of power for the people, and of expansion of the liberated zone. They are an indication that the liberation regular army has never been so strong.

Unparalleled progress

In early 1971, during the Route 9 operation, the revolutionary forces proved highly devastating in a jungled area. During the subsequent year, their sting has become very substantially sharper.

It has often occurred that a regiment or a brigade and sometimes two regiments or a full division of Saigon regular troops got quickly knocked out. Division 3 was written off in Quang Tri province. Division 22 in the Highlands and Binh Dinh and Division 5 at An Loc, and others were heavily decimated like the Marine Division in Quang Tri city, the Airborne Division in the Highlands, in Quang Tri and Binh Long, and Division 21 on Route 13 and in Western Nam Bo. Thus, in about half a year the liberation regular forces wiped out or bloodied up to 8 out of the 13 regular divisions of the enemy and inflicted seriously losses on the remainder.

Remarkably, the liberation regular forces have not only broken several joints of the backbone of US-Thieu's Vietnamization, but shattered a series of defence lines in the enemy's most important areas.

On the Quang Tri front, 48 hours after their onslaught, the PLAF smashed the strongly fortified outer perimeter of the adversary north and south of Route 9.

In the Highlands, in 6 hours they crushed the whole adverse basic defence network in Dakto-Tan Canh area.

The outer defence lines north and north-west of Saigon could hardly remain standing after 5 days under the searing fire of the PLAF in Eastern Nam Bo.

Even when they dug in inside strong combined defence works and profited from maximum US air and naval cover like at Dong Ha, Ai Tu, Quang Tri and La Vang, they were dislodged by the liberation regulars.

All this shows that not only in jungle terrain, but in the plains and urban centres as well, with the largest troop strength possible and with the highest level ever of the US Air Force's and Navy's support, the adversary can hardly escape destruction and his defensive combat methods and tactics can hardly avoid failure.

The impact of PLAF large-scale actions

The liberation regular forces' strikes at adverse manpower over the past several months have not only upset the enemy battle array but also impelled the people's war everywhere. In Quang Tri, the local population and armed forces were enabled to coordinate fruitfully popular uprisings, military operations and persuasion work among Saigon troops. As a result, reactionary forces in the area were destroyed or disbanded, the repressive machine of the Saigon regime shattered, and the liberated areas extended. In Binh Dinh, by erasing the Hoai An military sector, knocking out two regiments and capturing 1,000 men, liberation regular forces paved the way for a series of fierce and well-coordinated offensives and uprisings against the pacification program, which led to the liberation of most of the province. In the Highlands, Eastern Nam Bo and throughout the Mekong delta, the PLAF hitting at Saigon large units and local liberation and people at "security" forces freed fresh contiguous territories. Consequently the people's war has swiftly developed everywhere, which, in return, has made possible main force units' major annihilation battles.

The global strength of various component arms

Such facts illustrate the liberation regular army's progress by leaps and bounds in all-arms coordinated actions. Though possessed of a dense intelligence network functioning with sophisticated detection means, US-Saigon Command was constantly caught napping by the unexpected appearance of PLAF regular units and the magnitude of their assaults in which they made the most of their strong points and equipment, and of the opponent's weakness.

When their artillery went into action, it pinned down the enemy and crippled their resistance, making it easier for ground troops and friendly arms to rush ahead and do short work of the adversary.

Liberation armour, in close coordination with ground troops, mounted coups, made deep cuts into enemy formations, and cleared the decks for PLAF decisive punches.

Liberation anti-aircraft guns, with their dense and withering flash, brought the fighting to the immediate vicinity of adverse bases, while protecting ground troops by diverting and reducing the enemy's firepower, they have largely impeded their supplies and rescue missions from the air.

All arms — infantry, AA artillery, armour, engineers, signal, logistics — have done their best to meet technical requirements and provide closest coordination. Therefore, under any circumstances, on any terrain, the liberation regular forces have been able to get the upper hand in a remarkable manner. The most vivid example was Quang Tri where they got the better of their opponent who, operating in an uncovered plain, benefited from maximum US aerial and naval support. Of their skill and their capability of knocking out large units, *Newsweek* of May 18 said that the current offensives had confirmed that Saigon troops were less than a match for the "communist" main forces.

Commanding ability and operational conduct

The simultaneous appearance of the liberation regular forces on so many fronts came as a surprise to the US and Saigon brass-hats—surprise over the adverse strength and their capacity to mount sustained offensives while their own troops received sound thrashings on the field, the US-Saigon command engaged in heated discussions on the objectives of the "enemy". The Americans held that the latter wanted to cut off South Viet Nam or the 14th parallel—the Highlands and Binh Dinh being the most important front. Taking longer-range views, military and political strategists on US payroll maintained that Saigon was the main target, since the "Viet Cong" had assembled tanks and four divisions in this area. Thereupon they hastily threw all their strategic reserve forces into an attempt to block the "enemy" everywhere. Unfortunately the situation was critical for them on all fronts. When reinforcements reached one theatre, the posture of mercenary troops worsened in another, and in a short time the PLAF liberated Loc Ninh, Thien Ngon, Dac To-Tan Canh and Quang Tri, three fronts that had been described as "the most solidly defended," and where "the Viet Cong would bump their heads into a wall should they chose to strike." Almost one half of Saigon large u 's were wiped out or badly mauled. Commented *Ai* of June 21: The adversary's skilful command and use of combat troops have compelled the allied commanders to stake their all and gradually exhaust their forces without knowing his final objectives.

At this conjuncture of the war, it is a fact of strategic purport that the South Viet Nam PLAF and people possess regular forces capable of keeping up the fighting and mounting great annihilation operations, an extensive field of action and an advantageous battle array, which accounts for their current successes and portends further ones.

At present the American aggressors and their agents are in deep waters, facing the South Vietnamese people who are in an increasing winning posture with a strong regular army, growing regional troops and a widespread guerilla movement. Their theatres of operations are ceaselessly strengthening and expanding up to the enemy's sanctuaries in cities and towns. Those are factors of paramount importance for their resistance for national salvation.

VAN LUC

An M.48 US tank captured unscathed by a PLAF group on Hill 19 (Quang Tri)

PLAF more daring in eastern Nam Bo

FOLLOWING up their successes, the PLAF and people of Eastern Nam Bo are stepping up their activity in the eighth month of widespread offensive.

All around Saigon, in Binh Long, Thu Dau Mot, North Gia Dinh, Tay Ninh, Long An, Bien Hoa and Ba Ria, Long Khanh provinces, they have repeatedly struck at enemy bases, chopped up communications, foiled adverse encroaching and rescue operations.

In the first twenty days of October, the patriotic forces of Eastern Nam Bo knocked out or captured 5,250 enemy. In Thu Dau Mot and Gia Dinh adjoining Saigon, from October 6 to November 4, they wiped out or took prisoner 5,000 men or 9 battalions, 15 companies and 10 or so platoons. They destroyed 50 vehicles, 20 guns and mortars, 20 petrol and ammunition dumps, downed or wrecked 15 aircraft. As a result, 20 garrisons were occupied, levelled or forced to withdraw, and 60 hamlets in 20 villages with 100,000 inhabitants liberated.

The most striking feature in the recent period has been the smooth coordination of military attacks with popular uprisings in various areas, even at provincial and inter-provincial levels. Guerillas, regionals and regulars and all their services have fought small, middle and large-scale actions. In toughest combat conditions and in the immediate neighbourhood of Saigon where the adversary can provide maximum all-round support to his troops, particularly aviation, artillery and infantry, the PLAF and local population have managed to hit hard at their opponent. While expanding guerilla warfare deep in contested areas they have mounted crippling surprise raids. An important part of the adverse troop strength, including strategic regular forces positioned at the northern and northwestern gates of Saigon, has been knocked out, large bits of his hold shattered, and many units of hamlet and village administration either liquidated or made inoperative.

In Thu Dau Mot province, after fourteen straight days of fighting starting from October 6, the PLAF and people exacted a toll of 2,000 adverse officers and men, almost half of whose were coercive forces. In four days they entirely liberated or seized effective control over 18 hamlets with a 40,000 population along Routes 13, 14 and 15.

In Tay Ninh and North Gia Dinh, the PLAF have relentlessly attacked both enemy regular and coercive forces in Cu Chi, Duong Minh Chau, Trang Bang, Go Dau Ha and other districts around Saigon. Over 7,000 people of Tan Phu Trung hamlet next door to Saigon rose up, shattered the enemy grip and returned to their native places.

In Ba Ria, Long Khanh and Bien Hoa, the PLAF launched powerful onsets on the garrison network 9 to 25 miles from Saigon. Thousands of people of Trang Bang district recovered control over their areas.

In Long An, guerilla warfare has spread in several districts west and southwest of Saigon: many garrisons and administrative offices have been erased, a number of security forces platoons and companies written off, and civil-guards groups disbanded.

Reporting on the mounting activity of the PLAF throughout October and in early November, *UPI* of November 2 said: A 'communist' regiment trounced 'government' rangers in two days running at a point less than 10 miles from Saigon while virtually all of the roads leading to and from the city were constantly threatened or cut off. The American command, *UPI* added, was so alarmed that it had to bring in armed AC.130s from Thailand and set up a US-controlled radar station outside the Saigon perimeter to monitor 'communist' troops' movement. The same agency also made known that over 30 hamlets in the Saigon area had been infiltrated — which posed the heaviest threat to Saigon since the Spring of 1969, and brought the war nearest to the city since Tet 1968.

The second greatest characteristic lies in the Eastern Nam Bo patriots' imaginative application of the people's war tactics: assaulting the enemy inside his own strongly fortified defence lines, and in his own forays into the liberated zone.

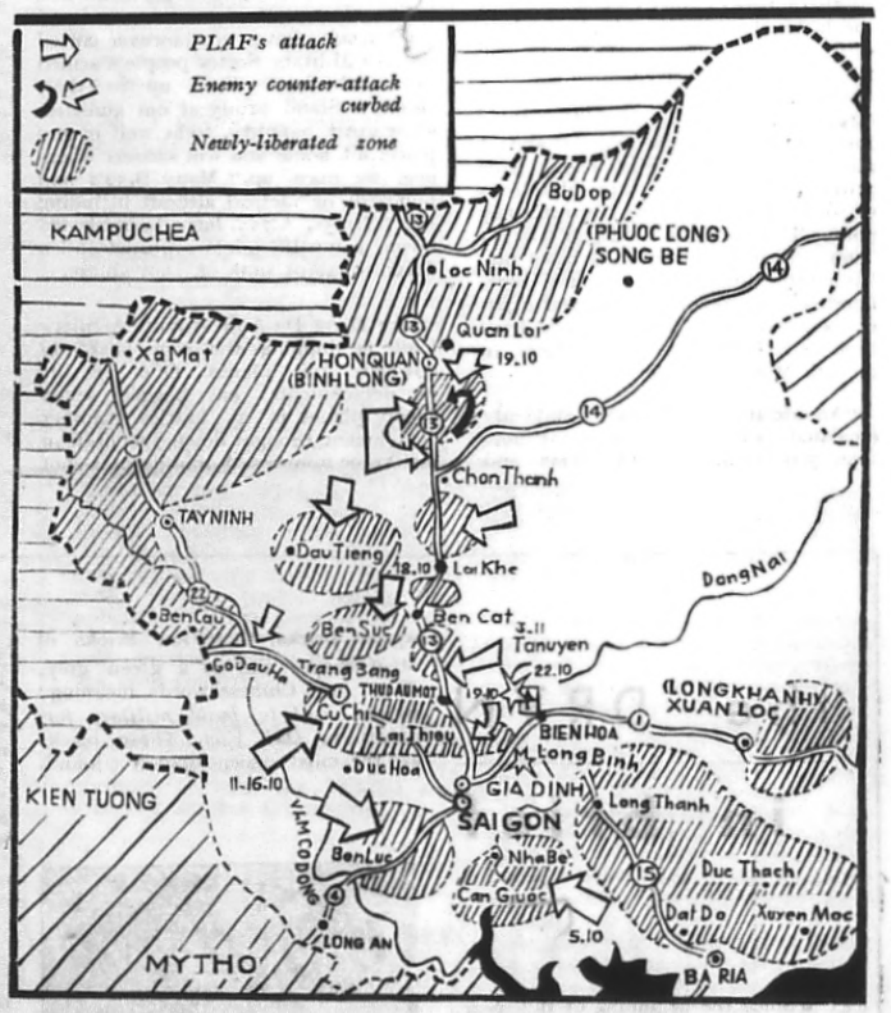
The US-Saigon command has been passively trying to deal with the PLAF onslaughts by constantly moving its troops from place to place. In the Saigon sector, it has organized the 'special forces for the defence of the capital,' fielded well over 10 ranger battalions, 2 task forces and all of Airborne Brigade 81, and undertaken uninterrupted police round-ups. Outside the city's perimeter, it has mobilized a large troop strength on a permanent basis with US air and artillery support: 2 divisions on Route 13, a task force of Division 18 and Ranger Task Force 5 in Hon Quan area, and an equivalent of a division at Lai Khe, Chau Thanh, Bau Bang and Ben Cat. The enemy's plan was to set on foot a big-scale clearing campaign with the hope of reopening the traffic on Route 13, reoccupying a number of areas and tightening his hold on Saigon. But realities on the battlefield have upset his calculations and nearly all of his operations have ended in failure at the hands of the liberation forces and people of Binh Long, Thu Dau Mot, North Gia Dinh. Not only have they put out of action over 2,000 men of Divisions 5 and 18 and several task forces and security forces and civil guards units, but also cleared many regions of enemy troops such as in Quan Loi and Minh Hoa.

Penetrating deep into key sectors, the PLAF have applied strong pressure on various defence lines north and northwest of Saigon.

AFP said: "The communists' offensives can take place at any time, their rocket belt continues to be active, thereby posing a grave threat to Saigon."

Such a conjuncture portends new highs in the patriots' wave of offensives and uprisings in the area.

DIEN AN



Detainees in US-Saigon jails...

(Continued from page 1)

The US-Thieu plot against POWs and civilian detainees in South Viet Nam and collective murders committed on Phu Quoc Island and elsewhere are also constituent elements of the genocidal crime defined by the Dec. 9, 1948 Convention.

ON October 26, 1972, a delegation of the Secretariat of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers, composed of Lawyer Joe Nordmann, Secretary General of the Association, Mrs Solange Bouvier Ajam, member of the International Secretariat, and Mr Robert Dachet, Executive Secretary, handed to the Delegation General of the Thieu administration in Paris a letter stressing that "it seems to us useless, in face of this violation of the elementary rules of any civilized administration to evoke the principles of law and the decision of the Nuremberg International Military Tribunal." While totally approving the words of this message, we think it is necessary to send it also and first to Mr R. Nixon in his double capacity as Thieu's almighty protector and jurist who is supposed to have a perfect knowledge of international criminal law and the judgements of the Nuremberg International Military Tribunal and the Far-Eastern International Military Tribunal which sent to the gallows Japanese General Tomoyuki Yamashita for having allowed or tolerated the massacre of POWs and civilian population in the Philippines.

On the same day, the International Association of Democratic Lawyers cabled to Kurt Waldheim, Secretary General of the UNO, "an urgent appeal so that under your high authority an inquiry commission will be dispatched to Saigon with a view to preventing the massacre of detainees and population in South Viet Nam."

We hold that action should be undertaken as soon as possible by lawyers, intellectuals, religious personalities and various social sections in South Viet Nam. Unarmed detainees are crying for help, those already fallen under the US-Thieu cruel thugs' dastardly fire are demanding denunciation. It is the duty of all Vietnamese to raise their voices against the odious crime of US imperialism. It is certain that all men of goodwill in the United States and the world will consider it their moral obligation to make their own contributions.

Firm bastion of great rear

IN the confrontation with the two US air and naval wars, the armed forces and people of the 4th Military Sector (known as North Viet Nam panhandle by the US) have scored signal achievements.

For eight years, the US imperialists have fielded big air and naval forces in continual and most atrocious raids on this narrow strip of land in the southern part of North Viet Nam. But the latter has withstood that deluge of fire with growing success. In the past more than seven months, the Nixon administration has deployed a large number of aircraft and warships into bombings and shellings of almost all inhabited areas from Thanh Hoa province to Vinh Linh area. Hundreds of sorties of B.52's have continuously pounded many areas in Nghe An, Ha Tinh and Quang Binh provinces and Vinh Linh area. At the same time, hundreds of missions of tactical fighter bombers and a dozen warships have been daily hitting at many places in the 4th Military Sector.

"American war planes suddenly escalated their attacks, launching more than 700 strikes in Indochina and doubling their raids in the southern panhandle of North Viet Nam," *AP*, reported on November 10 from Saigon. *UPI* wrote on November 13: "The American air-strikes reported Sunday (November 12) by the US Command were believed to be the most intense ever sent against North Viet Nam's panhandle."

The frenzy of the US aggressors and their most up-to-date weapons and war means have not however cowed the 4th Military Sector people's armed forces who have lived up to their slogan: "Stand firmly at our gunsites, show great mobility, fight well in any place, hit home and win success whenever we open up." Many B.52's and hundreds of tactical aircraft including F.4s, F.105s, A.7s... have been blasted down, many US pilots captured and a dozen warships sunk or shot ablaze.

The Dong Da Anti-Aircraft Artillery Unit is topping the score-board of downed US planes. One of its its detachments has bagged seven enemy planes in 25 battles. Another detachment brought down two craft in just three minutes. A missile unit shot down 3 B.52's within one month. The small-calibre weapons of the militia and home guards also got the credit for the grounding of many US planes. In the past seven months, the militia and home-guard have shot down more than 40 US planes. Many militia units, including all-women units, have many a time set afire US warships.

The people in the 4th Military Sector have also continuously kept a dequate supply of men and materials, flowing to the front for which they have won the honour of "supplying enough rice and manpower to the front for twenty five consecutive years."

As a firing line of the Fatherland and immediate rear of the big front, the 4th Military Sector has fulfilled all its tasks in transport and communications, in providing enough carriers of war supplies to the front.

IN the anti-US resistance for national salvation, the 4th Military Sector is a steel-like rampart worthy of the name of "heroic front." The liberation forces and people in South Viet Nam warmly hail their staunchness. With price and gratitude, they pledge to match such great deeds of the armed forces and people of the 4th Military Sector who have been "sharing the same fighting ditch" with South Viet Nam and making due contributions to the cause of liberating the South, defending the North and ultimately achieving peaceful national reunification.

TRONG LONG

US warship set ablaze by the valiant people and armed forces of the 4th zone

the DRVN in brief

o Since the beginning of this year, in defiance of US bombing, 1,500 new workers have been trained by various building enterprises and construction sites and 3,000 apprentices have received complementary training. 76 architects and urbanists, 262 middle-level technicians in designing and execution of projects and production of building materials have graduated.

o Fine and strong ten-century-old bricks with which our people used to erect walls and pave alleys at Hoa Lu (Ninh Binh province) have been found. They are square in form, measuring 16 inches each side, about 45 inches thick. Red in colour, they are well-baked. Beside square bricks, there are bricks of other shapes and of a green grey. They bear Chinese words meaning: *Bricks used to build military fortresses in Dai Viet*. Those bricks are the most ancient ones ever found.

o A kind of "active charcoal" needed in the production of certain foodstuffs, has been up to now imported from foreign countries.

Recently the Materials Department of the Ministry of Foods and Foodstuffs has succeeded in turning out this kind of material having the same quality as the imported one; its cost of production is moderate, its simple production process requires no new equipment, whereas the raw materials used are available in the country.

o A new kind of short-growth, yellow-grain, high-yield maize has been developed at the Economics and Planning College. After several seasons, this kind of maize has got a stabilized yield which varies from 5.5 to 7.5 tons per hectare. It fits very well the conditions of winter and has therefore become one of the staple winter crops.

o Realizing the important position of Military Zone 4, the people and armed forces there are striving to put into effect the slogan: "*Everything for the traffic to keep flowing.*" They are resolved to maintain it open under any circumstances.

People's engineering forces composed of militiamen trained in the technique of defusing enemy bombs are organized into teams ready to receive assignments. Road-repairings quads can be found in all road sections, complete with tools for filling bomb craters and levelling road surface for convoys to go through. They are present even in the most frequently hit road sections.

Lorry Company No.1, true to the slogan: "*Fight the enemy and advance, open the road and move forward,*" always fulfil satisfactorily all its tasks. Tranport is its main duty, but if need be, drivers from this unit willingly neutralize bombs and repair roads for supplies to continue streaming to the frontline.

o At the invitation of many socialist governments, a DRVN Government economic delegation headed by Vice-Premier Le Thanh Nghi left Hanoi on November 15, 1972 for the inviting countries to negotiate economic and military aid agreements for 1973.

o In the last ten years or so, the Plastic Surgery Department of Military Hospital 108 has successfully treated many patients. Photo shows X now. He had his nose cut off.

* *

LAOS

Great advances in the monsoon

THE rainy season that has just ended in Laos surpassed all previous ones in terms of military success. According to *Khaosan Pathet Lao*, the *Lao* people's armed forces in five months of tough fighting, put out of action as many as 8,600 enemy, wiping out or decimating 7 mobile groups and 6 battalions of the enemy. They also shot down 46 aircraft and destroyed or captured 16 military vehicles and close to 1,400 assorted guns. A whole mobile group of the Vang Pao "special forces" and an entire battalion of Thai mercenaries were completely written off.

The chief achievement of the *Lao* armed forces and people, naturally, was the ever strengthening of their position, further consolidation and expansion of the liberated areas in many strategic theatres, and fast growth of all the three kinds of the people's armed forces.

On the other hand, the past wet monsoon saw a marked decline of the US and its client forces on all fronts. Because of the heavy setbacks sustained in the 1971-72 dry season and the serious losses taken during the various inroads in Khong Sedon, Saravane province and on the Boloven Plateaux early in the rainy season, the enemy had had to wait longer than in any previous years before launching the customary wet-season incursions into the Plain of Jars.

Finally, in mid August, the US mustered 6 and then 8 Vang Pao MG's and dozens of Thai battalions, in heavily air-supported operations, in various areas around the Plain. The intention of the US was, with Vang Pao troops as the mobile force and Thai mercenaries as the occupation force, to take these key areas and from there to fan out and capture the whole strategic region. The enemy hoped they could not only take control of the Plain, but also curb the liberation forces' onslaughts on their redoubts in Sam Thong and Long Cheng in the dry season.

For all their impressive numerical strength and fire power, the enemy were caught in a huge snare put up with great skill by the *Lao* patriotic armed force, who, right at the start, struck staggering blows at the enemy and, from then on, broke one counter-attack after another. North and north-east of the Plain, the 4 strongest Vang Pao MG's were battered as soon as they were helilifted in, and enemy probes in the south and southwest were all hurled back. What was left of the enemy forces either surrendered or turned tail in panic.

Meanwhile in Sam Thong and Long Cheng, the liberation forces tightened the noose around enemy hideouts, and routed MG's 15th, 21st, 22nd, 24th, 26th, 27th, 30th and 32nd, which were attempting to break the siege. The 23rd MG was completely wiped out, and 2 Thai battalions were depleted south of the Plain. Finally, the enemy had to pull back without achieving their strategic objective while suffering heavy losses in lives and war material and a serious slump in morale.

In Southern Laos, the patriotic forces also operated in force, winning, among other things, very brilliant successes in the capital of Saravane province, at the Lao Ngam road junction, and in Khong Sedone town, which was rid of all enemy troops.

In close cooperation with the main forces, guerillas pushed on relentlessly, closing in upon the US-puppets in military bases and towns, from Luang Prabang and Luong Nam Tha in the north to Savannakhet and Attopeu in the south. As a result, 25 more hamlets with thousands of inhabitants were added to the liberated zone.

The situation was very critical for the enemy. According to *Reuter* and *AFP* dispatches in September and October, the Vientiane forces had been unable to gain any ground and Vang Pao forces had been halted at the approaches to the Plain of Jars. The reports also mentioned the siege on Khong Sedone, the danger hovering over Seno base, and the activity of the liberation artillery near Pakse.

The reverse of the US and its henchmen in Laos in the past rainy season was a strategic one. The Nixon administration has, indeed, failed again in its intensified "special war" in that country, and neither the Vang Pao forces nor the Thai army could bring "Laotianization" to fruition. Strategically speaking, the US air forces, which were called upon to provide fire support and transport could do little, being diverted to other theatres in Indochina. *AFP* noted on September 8 that 80 per cent of the Vang Pao forces did not receive any supply because of the breakdown of the airlift.

Stung to the quick by so great a disaster right in the wet monsoon when it used command great advantages, the US now is trying to breathe life into its exhausted mercenaries and make them mount offensives again while feverishly intensifying air strikes on heavily populated areas to deny them to the liberation forces in the dry season, which has just set in.

In short, the US is frantically carrying on its scheme to make Indochinese fight one another and to pit Asians against Asians with a view to saving the "Nixon doctrine" from fiasco in Laos.

The enemy's doom however is looming more threatheningly than ever. The *Lao* patriotic armed forces and people, on the other hand, have come out of the wet season with renewed strength. Seizing all opportunities and resolved to accomplish the tasks assigned them for this dry season by the Supreme Command of the LPLA, they are advancing side by side with the peoples and armed forces of Viet Nam and Cambodia towards complete victory in their own national salvation struggle.

Here and there

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Cries wine and sells vinegar

ON November 8, 1972, Pakistan announced a dual decision: its withdrawal from the SEATO and recognition of the DRVN at ambassadorial level.

The State Department understandably passed over the second step in silence but undertandably too could not do the same thing about the first, as the aggressive bloc was its creation. It was forced to describe it as of little importance and not unexpected (*AP*, November 8).

Let's recall a bit of history. In August 1954, after the dramatic Dien Bien Phu victory of Viet Nam, US imperialism hurriedly set up the so-called organization of the South-east Asia Treaty Organization (SEATO for short) with the actual view toreplacing the French in Indochina.

At variance with its very designation, it included only three South-East Asian countries (Pakistan, Thailand, the Philippines), the remaining five belonging to other continents (the US, France, Great Britain, Australia, New Zealand). The Americans have persisted however in preserving its phony signboard with various tricks, namely by appointing its first General Secretary of Thai nationality and as its present one, another hireling of theirs from the same country.

There was also a time, when Dulles praised the important part of Pakistan, an eminently Asian country, member of both the SEATO and CENTO, another US creature.

A split developing into a tear

BUT with the vicissitudes of the time and US imperialism's decline, Washington-sponsored set-ups gradually went to the dogs. For close to 10 years, i.e. since US massive participation in the war of aggression in South Viet Nam and its getting bogged down there, Pakistan and France have boycotted nearly all SEATO military manœuvres and stayed away from many of its annual meetings. As early as 1967, US papers took note of the fact and commented that its activity was crippled to a great extent because Pakistan occupies an important strategic position and France still wields some influence in the area. The split in the organization, which was many years old, developed into a real tear with the above-mentioned move by Pakistan.

In the State Department's reaction to it, the art of euphemism was quite sphisticated. Pakistan's action came as no surprise indeed for it had made its position abundantly clear back in August 1972.

An unequivocal warning

BY its sheer meaning, it was a clear enough warning. The US has shown it has seen the writing on the wall, whereas its agent Nguyen Van Thieu still seems to take for Gospel truth what Dulles stated in 1954 about the role of the SEATO as a "protective umbrella" for South Viet Nam, i.e. a mainstay for US hirelings' war activity in this part of our country.

While Thieu was struggling with a widespread wave of uprisings and offensives, the "umbrella" collapsed, the mainstay was broken.

This must have given food for thought to Markos and Thanom. Will they remain resigned to being US stooges?

A real epidemics

SAIGON'S press has been talking over the last few days about an epidemics of flags (made of cloth or painted), triggered off by Thieu.

One daily wrote on October 29, 1972: "It is said that a three stripe flag painted in front of one's house is inauspicious. In the countryside, each house uses up to 4 flags: one in the yard, one on the roof, one painted on the gate, one in front of the main entrance door."

"Because of this flag business, each household is about 1,000 piastres out of pocket or a total of 100 million piastres must be spent by the city, as a whole," *But Thep (Steel Pen)* remarked on November 11. "The grown-ups are busy buying some flags for display and for eventual reference, a kind of second statement of family conditions" the *Doc Lap (Independence)* commented on the same day. But that is not enough. There are the children's requirements to be met, for each of them must have two flags, one to be displayed by him and the other to be handed to the school for God knows what purpose."

"In the provinces," the *Dien Tin (Dispatch)* said on the same day, "there is a carnival of yellow and red colours. They are compulsory on house-roofs. In places, cautious people paint flags even on tree trunks... Why should even trees fly flags? Who do they fight against?"

Here is one among foreign correspondents' testimonies:

"It takes a good deal of naivety to find something nice in this phenomenon," mused Marcel Giuglaris in *Paris Soir*, October 29, 1972.

HUONG NAM

World opinion:

nixon, SIGN NOW!

FOR many weeks now the Viet Nam peace issue has remained a focus of universal attention. From all continents the people have been giving warm welcome to the October 26 and October 28 Statements of the DRVN Government and the Provisional Revolutionary Government of the Republic of South Viet Nam, and scoring US delaying the signing of the peace agreement reached with Viet Nam.

The design of the Nixon administration has become more apparent with every passing day in its massive and hurried introduction of arms and war equipment into South Viet Nam, its sending to Saigon of American military advisers under the cloak of "civil advisers" to continue "Vietnamization." It has also been manifest in Nguyen Van Thieu's frantic repression and murder of patriots and members of the opposition who have come out strongly against his bellicose stance, with a view to paving the way for the imposition of US neo-colonialism on the South Vietnamese people.

The indignation of progressive mankind has steadily been rising. The wave of protest against the bad faith of the Nixon administration which has used preposterous pretexts to put off the signing of the Agreement and prolong the war of extermination, the destruction of the land and massacre of civilians in both zones of Viet Nam, has taken on unprecedented dimensions. From all corners of the world, people are insisting with growing vigour that the Nixon administration sign without further delays the agreement on ending the war already arrived at.

In the new advance of the world peoples' movement for support of Viet Nam and condemnation of the US, apart from heartfelt sympathy from the Soviet Union, China, the DPRK, Eastern Europe, Cuba, Northern Europe, France, Britain, Italy, West Germany, Chile, Algeria, Mali, Egypt, Syria, Tanzania, the People's Democratic of Congo, the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen, Equatorial Guinea, India, Sri Lanka, Bangla Desh..., there has been that of progressives in Thailand, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan, Australia, Belgium, Iran, Israel, Burma, Mexico and other countries. Many international organizations and regional organizations have issued repeated statements and appeals against Washington's and Saigon's duplicity and dastardliness.

The most remarkable expression of this international solidarity with Viet Nam over the recent past has been the ebullient demonstrations and meetings held in Norway, Britain, Austria, West Germany, the United States... In Norway, tens of thousands of people and members of 75 mass organizations and trade unions have held meetings and demonstrations urging: *"Peace in Viet Nam and Indochina now!"* and *"US, sign the agreement now!"* In Britain, during the peace vigils which have been going on for several weeks now in front of the US Embassy in London, the demonstrators carried signs reading, *"Nixon, sign now!"*, *"US sign immediately the agreement on Viet Nam!"*, *"No more killing and destruction in Viet Nam!"*

In the United States, answering the call of anti-war organizations like the National Coalition for Peace, the Students Mobilization Committee and the Women Strike for Peace, progressives have strongly criticized the US government's stubborn continuation of war and urged it to sign without delay the cease-fire agreement.

Again, the world has pointed out the Nixon government's reluctance to recognize the failure of its policy of aggression (Joint Communiqué of Cuba and Democratic Yemen). The words and deeds of the United States in the recent past have proved beyond any doubt that the Nixon administration only seeks to fool opinion in the United States and the world while in fact it is striving to consolidate and strengthen the Nguyen Van Thieu client administration into an instrument to undermine the realization of the arrangements already agreed upon between the United States and the DRVN and step up the extermination air raids in both parts of Viet Nam (Statement of OSPAAAL). The US delay in signing the agreement allows Nguyen Van Thieu to carry out the liquidation of thousands of members of the opposition of different tendencies, including intellectuals, Buddhists, Christians and labouring people detained in the prisons in Saigon... (Appeal of French intellectuals and political activists). "Because lives and freedom continue to be trampled underfoot in South Viet Nam, we demand that the United States sign immediately the cease-fire agreement. We think that President Thieu cannot delay an agreement," stated the American Friends Committee. "Let the governments of all peace-loving countries in the world bring pressure to bear upon the US government and make it honour what has been agreed between it and VietNam" (Joint Statement of the Presidents of Congo and Equatorial Guinea).

Again, it has been suggested that Nixon be brought to the international tribunal as a war criminal (petition of the Engineering Workers Union in Kingston, London).

All these outcries have substantiated the following remark of the Soviet paper *Red Star* on November 12, 1972:

"The United States is standing at a crossroads: either it will sign immediately the agreement on ending the war, which public opinion around the globe is demanding, or continue the war which can only bring dishonour and new reverses to America."

130 *seamen of the "Constellation" carrier protesting to racial discrimination*

the third world in effervescence

Panama:

On September 11, 1972, the Panamanian Congress adopted a strong resolution against the US occupation of the Panama Canal zone and for restoration to Panama of her absolute sovereignty over this area.

It made it clear that there was no question of the sale, seizure, annexation, concession or lease of the Canal zone and that the Republic of Panama had not handed over the sovereignty over the canal to the US. This zone, it pointed out, had been arbitrarily occupied by the US.

The resolution stressed that Panama's basic goal in its negotiations with the US for a new treaty on the canal zone is to abolish the latter's status of colony and bring it fully under Panama's jurisdiction in a clear-cut and concrete manner.

Palestine:

In mid-September 1972, in coordination with the patriotic armed forces' devastating attacks on the Israeli aggressors on the Golan Heights, the Jordan River West bank, the Gaza strip, suburban Haifa and Southern Lebanon, Palestinians in Alkhalin and Gaza towns rose up against repression and terror and distributed leaflets condemning Israeli aggression.

Mozambique:

From May to July 1972, the patriotic armed forces assaulted outposts and important communication lines held by the Portuguese colonialists in the two provinces of Cabo Delgado and Tete, wiping out 420 enemy, shooting down an aircraft, sinking 3 launches, destroying 31 military vehicles and seizing a big haul of arms and munitions.

In Tete alone, 48 ambushes and onsets cost the Portuguese over 300 casualties.

Angola:

A recent communiqué issued by the Movement for the Liberation of Angola asserted that "national independence can be achieved only when the country is cleared of the enemy. There is no other way to attain this goal."

The communiqué made known that in the period from November 1971 to March 1972, the patriotic armed forces hit at the enemy everywhere, wiped out 442 of his men, shot down 1 aircraft, destroyed 23 military vehicles and sank a motor launch.

Guinea-Bissau:

In June and July 1972, the Portuguese colonialists came under fire 118 times from Guinean revolutionary fighters across the country. 200 colonialist troops lost their lives, 16 military vehicles were destroyed and a number of outposts levelled. The revolutionary fighters also smashed into the city of Gabu where they destroyed a number of administrative and military installations and took a toll of enemy troops.

Thailand:

On October 1 and 2, the patriotic armed forces made a succession of attacks on the US airbases in Uborn and Udorn, causing heavy damage. An *AFP* dispatch described the action as a warning to the Thai and US governments right at the moment when US air squadrons were transferred from South Viet Nam to bases in Thailand, and as a way of greeting the F.111 swing-wing planes just deployed into Thailand for the bombing campaign in Indochina.

Earlier, on September 29, the patriotic forces overran the Police HQ's in Raman district, Yala province, broke into the detention camp and released its internees. The battle raged for several hours. The assailants later withdrew, carrying off a machinegun, many rifles and a quantity of ammunition.

SOUTH VIET NAM CENTRAL ORGAN OF THE SOUTH VIET NAM NATIONAL FRONT FOR LIBERATION